

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

CPR-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /064 W  
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P 051156Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 3444

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1291

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O. LINE TO READ GDS VICE N/A)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, MASS, BA

SUBJECT : DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER: LET'S BELL THE CAT

REFS : (A) LONDON 12594; (B) MANAMA 761 AND 762; (C) MANAMA 1274

1. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER OF BAHRAIN, SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL-KHALIFA, IS WAITING FOR THE USG TO RESPOND TO HIS INFORMAL QUERIES ABOUT VISITING WASHINGTON (REFTELS A AND B), WITH EITHER A FORMAL INVITATION OR AN INFORMAL SUGGESTION THAT THE TIME IS NOT YET RIPE FOR A SERIOUS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF MIDEASTFOR IN BAHRAIN AND BAHRAIN'S MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS. IN OUR VIEW IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO EXTEND THE INVITATION TO SHAIKH KHALIFA IF WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO HAVE, AS HE PUT IT, "FRANK AND HONE ST" DISCUSSIONS WITH "DEFINITIVE ANSWERS" (MANAMA 762). IF IT HAS PROVED OR IS PROVING IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO MUSTER ITS COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS (AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, ITS MONEY) ON THESE TWO ISSUES WHICH THE GOB SEEKS TO INTERRELATE, THEN THIS EMBASSY SHOULD CERTAINLY BE SO INFORMED BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S SEPT. 15 DEPARTURE FOR SINGAPORE (REF C) SO THAT WE CAN SO INFORM HIM. FORM AND STYLE ARE NOT EVERYTHING IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT IT WOULD BE A CLEAR AFFRONT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TO HIM NOT TO APPEAR TO TAKE HIS PROPOSAL FOR DIALOGUE SERIOUSLY.

2. IT WOULD APPEAR FROM HIS TRAVEL PROGRAM (REF C), THAT SHAIKH KHALI

FA

HAS LEFT SEVERAL DAYS OPEN IN EARLY OCTOBER FOR THE WASHINGTON VISIT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: SOME INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO SEPT. 15 ON HOW WE  
PROPOSE TO HANDLE THE PRIME MINISTER'S INITIATIVE.

BURLEIGH

CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 16 SEP 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MANAMA01291  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D760337-0016  
**From:** MANAMA BAHRAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 63  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER: LET'S BELL THE CAT  
**TAGS:** MARR, MASS, BA, US, (KHALIFA, KHALIFA IBN SALMAN AL)  
**To:** STATE WASHINGTON DC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006